



The President's Daily Brief

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3 February 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Hanoi leadership made an outward display of unity at yesterday's observance of the 40th anniversary of the North Vietnamese Communist Party.
(Page 1)

Nigeria's leaders continue to be sensitive over their ability to administer the country's relief program. (Page 2)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Japan's largest labor federation is backing away from plans to oppose the renewal of the US-Japanese security treaty. (Page 4)

NATO members may soon lock horns over military aid to Greece. (Page 5)

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NORTH VIETNAM

The Hanoi leadership made yesterday's observation of the party's 40th anniversary the occasion for a new show of unity. Almost the entire politburo was on display, arranged in appropriate party ranking, and Party First Secretary Le Duan gave the principal speech. In Duan's long speech, he sought to convey a picture of unity and collective leadership, two themes that had not been prominent in Hanoi commentary since Ho's funeral.

Duan had a little something for everyone, hitting on all important party policies and problems, and putting himself on record as endorsing both the switch to a lower military profile in the South and the need to focus more on "the building of socialism in the North."

The speech held out the promise of even greater flexibility in Communist tactics. Duan went out of his way, for example, to justify significant shifts in Communist negotiations and battlefield strategy by referring to party history. He cited the sudden shifts in strategy in the 1946 period--when "President Ho skillfully steered the revolutionary boat out of dangerous reefs at first thought insurmountable."

This was Duan's first major statement published since Ho's death and his first on the war in about two years. His speech seems to follow closely the policies advocated by Truong Chinh. As such, it raises questions as to Le Duan's real power position, even though he certainly used the anniversary celebration to strengthen his image as party first secretary.

We plan to discuss more fully both the contents of the speech and its implications for the power structure in Hanoi after we have time to study the text in greater detail.

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NIGERIA

Federal officials are extremely annoyed at the US approach to the relief problem. [REDACTED]

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The expulsion of Colonel Dewey over the weekend was a reflection of federal annoyance at US relief efforts. We believe General Gowon still wants very much to maintain good relations with the US, but that he is probably finding it more and more difficult to fend off pressures from within his government for closer ties with the USSR at the expense of the US.

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COMMUNIST CHINA - US

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These comments plus remarks from other medium-level Chinese officials seem to be part of a campaign to reap the maximum tactical advantage from resumption of the Warsaw talks. The Chinese are realistic enough not to expect any sudden US concession on Taiwan. Nevertheless, they seem to enjoy exploiting the possibility of a Sino-US accommodation in order to make Moscow uncomfortable and to sow discord between Taipei and Washington.

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JAPAN

Sohyo, Japan's largest labor federation, may soften its opposition to the renewal of the US-Japanese mutual security treaty. In a speech before the union's top leadership on 29 January, Sohyo's chairman hinted that the federation may not stage a planned nationwide general strike in June to protest the automatic renewal of the pact. Sohyo is also re-evaluating its close association with the Japan Socialist Party, a major critic of the treaty, because of the party's disastrous losses in last December's general elections.

We believe that growing popular antipathy to leftist-sponsored violence and general satisfaction with the recent Okinawan reversion agreement have forced Sohyo to reassess its policies. In addition, Sohyo's leaders are under pressure from its members to devote more attention to economic problems and less to ideologically oriented political struggles.

Sohyo has four million members and played a key role in the massive demonstrations in 1960. Its defection would severely weaken the antitreaty campaign this spring.

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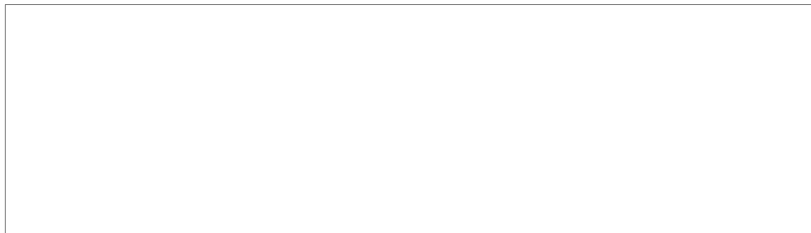
NATO-GREECE

A report recommending the authorization of allied military aid to Greece is expected to come before NATO's Defense Review Committee in the next few weeks. Its consideration will provide a focus for those members of the Alliance who want to shut off all such assistance as a means of showing their disapproval of the regime in Athens. The countries likely to oppose the report are led by Norway and include at least Denmark and the Netherlands. Athens does not appear disposed to avoid a showdown on this question as it did when it withdrew from the Council of Europe last December.

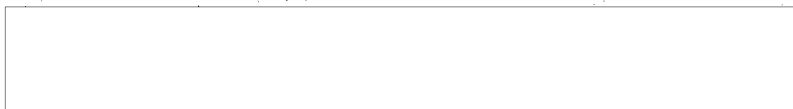
NATO is faced with a difficult confrontation. Norway is serious about this issue and is prepared to take it to the ministerial level. The Greeks insist that their internal affairs are not a proper subject for debate by a NATO forum and Athens expects the major NATO powers to convey this point to the Scandinavians.

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CAMBODIA-VIETNAM



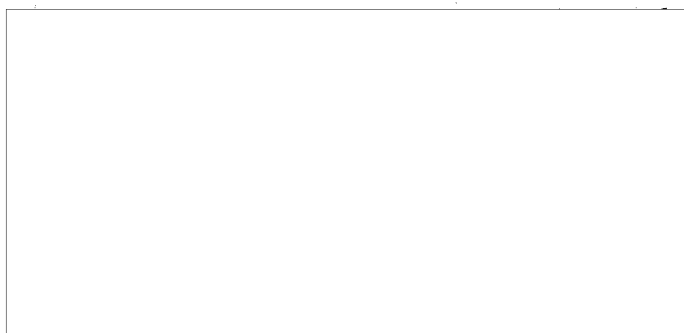
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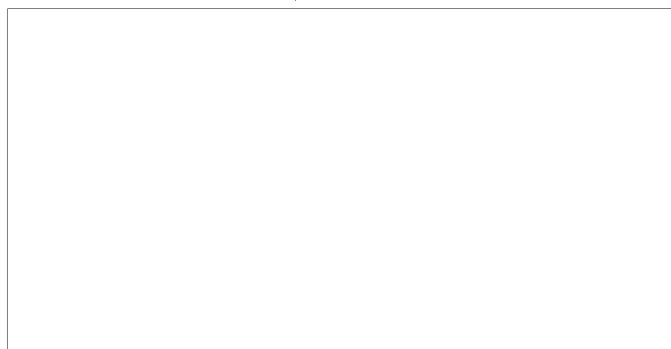
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